

FBIS 112

ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER ANNOUNCES MOBILIZATION EXERCISE

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(TEXT) JERUSALEM, AUG 11 (AFP)--A 48-HOUR EXERCISE WILL BE HELD ACROSS ISRAEL TO TEST A NEW SYSTEM OF RAPID MOBILISATION OF RESERVES FOR THE ARMED FORCES, DEFENCE MINISTER SHIM'ON PERES TOLD THE CABINET HERE TODAY.

ISRAELI LEADERS HAVE ISSUED SEVERAL WARNINGS IN LAST FEW WEEKS ON THE DANGER OF RESUMED HOSTILITIES WITH THE ARAB STATES LATER THIS YEAR.

OBSERVERS NOTED THAT TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT HERE FOLLOWED REPORTS THAT RESERVISTS HAD BEEN RECALLED IN EGYPT AND STUDENTS RECRUITED DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS IN SYRIA.

MR. PERES TOLD THE KNESSET (PARLIAMENT) HERE LAST TUESDAY SYRIA HAD RECEIVED SOVIET ARMS WORTH 2 BILLION DOLLARS IN THE 10 MONTHS SINCE THE MIDDLE EAST WAR LAST OCTOBER.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID MR. PERES TOLD THE CABINET TODAY THE RESERVIST MOBILISATION EXERCISE WOULD INVOLVE ALL ARMY AND DEFENCE FORCE BRANCHES.

UNITED NATIONS FORCES AND FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES WOULD BE ADVISED OF THE EXERCISE IN ADVANCE, MR. PERES, QUOTED BY THE SPOKESMAN, ADDED.

ISRAELI AUTHORITIES USED BROADCAST CODE WORDS TO INITIATE A RAPID CALLUP OF RESERVISTS ON THE OUTBREAK OF THE OCTOBER WAR.

MR. PERES ALSO TOLD THE CABINET TODAY NUMEROUS UNIVERSITY STUDENTS HAD VOLUNTEERED FOR AN ADDITIONAL YEAR'S MILITARY SERVICE, BETWE NORMAL 3 YEARS.

MILITARY SERVICE, WHICH BEGINS AT 18, HAS TO FULFILLED BEFORE UNIVERSITY STUDIES.

11 AUG 1940Z HS/